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Local & State

Review: Doja Cat brings blasphemous bops to Tampa on the Scarlet Tour

BY GABRIELLE CALISE
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — Doja Cat found herself trapped.

Midway through the song "Attention," dancers linked hands in a circle around the star as she tried to escape. Then a guy yanked her back and flipped her around, propping Doja up in the air. Her arms stretched out like she was hanging on a cross.

"Look at me, look at me, I'm naked," she rapped. "Vulnerability earned me a lot of bacon."

At Friday's Amalie Arena stop of the Scarlet Tour, the 28-year-old singer contemplated fame, her critics and a musical rebirth. This sinful version of Doja Cat was far from the goofy woman who sang about being a cow with french fries up her nose in 2018, or the glossy pop star whose choruses inspired legions of TikTok dances during the early pandemic months. The tour found Doja in the midst of a dark shift, plunging into a supervillain persona that clearly fascinates her while giving fans just enough of the hits that made her a star.

This internal conflict played out in flaming glory onstage.

In her first local appearance since becoming a household name in 2020, Doja shouted her way through "WYM Freestyle" alongside a monster truck-sized mechanical spider wriggling over the front row. She spent "Paint the Town Red" throwing it back in front of a giant eyeball on legs. Her 2019 single, "Tia Tamera," got a devilish remix with smoldering electric guitar riffs and a cascade of fireballs. She dissed the haters in "Shutcho," rapping on a platform in front of red cathedral windows.

GABRIELLE CALISE | Times

Doja Cat brought her Scarlet Tour to Amalie Arena on Friday, her first local concert since early 2020.

"How you hatin' on the Lord's day?" she spat.

The hour and a half concert was a thrilling spectacle, though the shock factor was not surprising for those who have been paying attention to Doja Cat. Born Amala Ratna Zandile Dlamini, the artist has built a reputation on edgy behavior. Her arrival in Tampa came at the end of a controversial year: Accusations of being demonic, losing nearly a million followers in a month after dissing die-hard fans, wearing a T-shirt with alt-right comic Sam Hyde.

These stunts did not stop Doja's remaining Florida followers from filling nearly every seat in the arena. In fact, many seemed to embrace her new era. Demons in red pleather corsets and light-up horns sashayed past bullhorn-wielding protesters outside the arena. Others mooed at each other while wearing cow print dresses, overalls and bucket hats. At least one fan embraced both aesthetics as a devil-cow hybrid.

Before the show, groups posed in front of a hot pink merch trunk hawking "Illuminaughty" hats and $45 T-shirts that assured us "Doja Cat loves her fans." Never mind the tiny letters at the bottom: "I think, IDK."

Throughout the show, the singer did flash a hand-heart and smiles for her audience. But she only spoke to them directly a handful of times.

"Tampaaaaa," she said. "Home of Doechii!"

Rising rapper, singer and dancer Doechii grew up in the city and spent her 30-minute set repping her home state. She emerged from a pool of murky green light in full Everglades chic, riding in on an airboat and spitting bars in front of a sea of sawgrass.

"Tonight I want to take you on a ride," she purred. "All the way to the beginning of when I knew I was a real swamp b—h."

It's hard to believe that Doechii, 25, was the opener the way her audience danced and screamed. The three-act show served as a bold introduction to the artist, who bounced from rapid-fire raunch of "B—h I'm Nice" and "Spookie Coochie" to the butter-smooth crooning of "Persuasive" and the Billboard chart-topping "What it is (Block Boy)." During a dance break to "Booty Drop," Doechii climbed the airboat and threw her leg onto the fan, swirling her behind in the air with a grin. Her backup dancers — four ripped, shirtless dudes — wiggled below in cargo shorts and work boots.

This was Doechii's first proper hometown return since she rose to fame, and the set felt like a celebration. Cellphone flashlights filled the arena during Doechii's breakout song "Yucky Blucky Fruitcake," the TikTok-famous tune that led to her Top Dawg Entertainment record deal. Her work since has gotten love from Beyoncé and former President Barack Obama. Not to mention Doja Cat.

Doja Cat also played around with a multiact structure, though hers was not as tightly broken into thematic chunks as her opener's. She drew mostly from her September 2023 album, "Scarlet," with the third act dedicated to self-proclaimed "cash grab" songs from previous albums "Hot Pink" and "Planet Her." A live band put a jazzy new spin on "Say So," while illuminati pizza slices and early-Internet cat memes danced over an audience smooch cam during "Kiss Me More." The message: She'll drag the old stuff out for her fans, but on her own terms.

The tour offered a spectacular deep dive for "Scarlet" fans and a convincing primer for those not yet converted. A talented dancer in red embodied the Scarlet character — whom Doja calls "the reimagining of the self" — creeping around stage throughout the show. By the end, the artist and her alter ego end up dancing together, Doja Cat and her wicked side finally one in the same.

Contact Gabrielle Calise at gcalise@tampabay.com.

Suspect in Citrus County Thanksgiving murder dies from gunshot wound

BY BERNADETTE BERDYCHOWSKI
Times Staff Writer

A 75-year-old suspect in a Citrus County Thanksgiving murder has died.

Jonathan Dimick Sr.

Deputies found Jonathan Dimick Sr. wounded, as well as a body in a vehicle trunk on the property on Thursday morning, the sheriff's office said in a news release.

Deputies were conducting a wellness check at an Inverness home near the area of Poe Street and Eden Drive early Thursday. They knocked on the door and got no answer. Deputies then went around the home and found a large butcher's knife and blood in the backyard, according to the sheriff's office.

Once they got into the home, they found Dimick Sr. with a possible self-inflicted gunshot wound to the stomach. He was taken to the hospital, where he later died from the injuries, officials said.

Deputies later found the dismembered body of James Banks, 67, in his own car.

"The scene our deputies responded to was absolutely shocking. It is rare that a case this horrific occurs in Citrus County, but this is what we prepare for," Sheriff Mike Prendergast said in a statement. "It is truly unfortunate that our suspect will never be prosecuted for this brutal crime."

Largo man is arrested and charged in death of his brother

BY BERNADETTE BERDYCHOWSKI
Times Staff Writer

Largo police officers arrested a man and charged him with first-degree murder Saturday, the Police Department said.

Police showed up after midnight to Joshua Brinkley's home on Third Street Northwest in Largo after acquaintances reported "concerning statements" to police, the department said.

Police said they saw Brinkley leaving his home, and when he spotted the officers, he got out of his car with his hands up and told them, "I just killed my brother in my house."

Officers then found a dead man in his home with gunshot wounds, the release said. Police did not release the name of the victim, citing Marsy's Law.

Brinkley, 41, was arrested and taken to the Largo Police Department, where he kicked a deputy, the Police Department said. He was then moved to the Pinellas County Jail and charged with first-degree murder and battery on a law enforcement officer.

Contact Bernadette Berdychowski at bberdychowski@tampabay.com. Follow @bberdychowski

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF BELLEAIR NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTION MARCH 19, 2024

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Belleair will hold a municipal election on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and two Town Commissioners for three-year terms, as well as one Town Commissioner for an unexpired term of one year.

Qualifying by candidates will begin at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 and end on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at 4:00 PM, at which time the qualifying period shall close. All persons desiring to be candidates in such election shall qualify in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and Ordinances of Town of Belleair, Florida, and State of Florida Election Code pertaining to municipal elections.

All candidates desiring to qualify for the election shall obtain qualifying packets from the office of the Town Clerk. Candidates may pick up packets in person at Belleair Town Hall, 901 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair, Florida, 33756, or by emailing cnicole@townofbelleair.net. Those wishing to pick up packets in person should make an appointment with the Town Clerk by emailing the address above or by calling (727) 588-3769 ext. 312. Town Hall is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

This material is provided in English and Spanish because Belleair is located in Pinellas County and is a covered jurisdiction under the Language Minority Groups provision of the Voting Rights Act.

PUEBLO DE BELLEAIR AVISO DE ELECCIONES MUNICIPALES 19 DE MARZO DE 2024

Por el presente aviso se notifica que el Pueblo de Belleair llevará a cabo elecciones municipales el martes 19 de marzo de 2024, con el fin de elegir a un Alcalde y Dos Comisionados del pueblo por periodos de tres años, así como a un Comisionado del Pueblo por un periodo vigente de un año.

La calificación de los candidatos comenzará A LAS 8:00 AM del martes 28 de noviembre de 2023 y finalizará el miércoles 13 de diciembre de 2023 a las 4:00 PM, en cuyo momento finalizará el periodo de calificación. Todas aquellas personas que deseen ser candidatas en dicha elección deberán calificar de conformidad con las disposiciones del Estatuto y las Ordenanzas del Pueblo de Belleair, Florida, y el Código de Elecciones del Estado de Florida correspondiente a las elecciones municipales.

Todos los candidatos que deseen calificar para la elección deberán obtener paquetes de calificación por parte de la oficina del Secretario Municipal. Los candidatos pueden recoger los paquetes en persona en Belleair Town Hall, 901 Ponce de Leon Blvd., Belleair, Florida, 33756, o enviando un correo electrónico a cnicole@townofbelleair.net. Aquellos que deseen recoger los paquetes en persona deberán programar una cita con el Secretario Municipal enviando un correo electrónico a la dirección mencionada anteriormente o llamando al (727) 588-3769 ext. 312. Los horarios de atención del Ayuntamiento son de lunes a viernes de 8:00 AM a 4:30 PM.

Este material se proporciona en inglés y español debido a que Belleair se encuentra ubicado en el Condado de Pinellas, una jurisdicción cubierta de conformidad con la disposición de Grupos de Minorías Lingüísticas de la Ley de Derechos de Votación.

11/22 and 11/26/23 0000317900-01

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

November 26, 2023

Costa Vatikiotis, Mayor of the City of Tarpon Springs
324 Pine Street
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689
(727) 938-3711

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Tarpon Springs.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 20, 2023 the City of Tarpon Springs will submit a request to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Economic Development Initiative - Community Project Funding Grant funds under H.R. 2471, Title II - Department of Housing and Urban Development of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103) (the FY2022 Act), to undertake a project known as Craig Park/Spring Bayou Seawall and Sidewalk Repair and Resiliency Upgrade Project for the purpose of repairing or replacing approximately 2,000 linear feet of deteriorating historic seawalls, waterfront sidewalk, and surrounding topography, raising them to address sea level rise using Community Project Funding Grant monies in addition to City funds. This project is expected to cost $3,819,410 with $2,000,000 of that allocated from CPF Grant funds. The project is located within Craig Park, at 100 Library Ln, Tarpon Springs, FL 34689.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Tarpon Springs has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at City of Tarpon Springs City Hall, 324 East Pine Street, Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689 and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Tarpon Springs, Attn: P.J. Harbert, Grant Project Specialist. All comments received by December 19, 2023 will be considered by the City of Tarpon Springs prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Tarpon Springs certifies to HUD that Costa Vatikiotis in his capacity as Mayor of the City of Tarpon Springs consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Tarpon Springs to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Tarpon Springs certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Tarpon Springs; (b) the City of Tarpon Springs has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Region IV, 40 Marietta Street, Atlanta, GA 30303. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Costa Vatikiotis, Mayor of the City of Tarpon Springs
324 Pine Street
Tarpon Springs, Florida 34689
(727) 938-3711
11/26/2023 0000317951-01

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Proposal/ Request for Proposals

Public Notice of Receipt of Unsolicited Proposal for Public-Private Partnership for Three (3) New Fire Stations for Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District, an independent special fire control district ("District") has received an unsolicited proposal for design, construction, and financing of three (3) new fire stations — Station #28, Station #27, and Station #26 — hereinafter referred to as the "Project." The District Board of Commissioners has determined that the Project is a "qualifying project" under section 255.065, Florida Statutes and will accept other proposals for the same project.

Proposals must comply with section 255.065, Florida Statutes and the requirements provided in the Request for Proposals (RFP) package which may be obtained from the District's website at https://psfrd.org found under "Open RFQs/RFPs." If a respondent encounters any difficulties obtaining the RFP Package, contact Kimberly Hampton, District Administrator, at khampton@psfrd.org or by telephone at (727) 595-1117, extension 100.

The District will consider proposals according to the process described in the RFP Package and section 255.065, Florida Statutes. **The deadline to submit a proposal is 2:00 p.m. on December 11, 2023.** The District will publicly open and acknowledge all timely received responses at District headquarters located at 304 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 337485, at 2:30 p.m., on December 11, 2023. Proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted. Faxed or electronically mailed proposals will not be accepted. All costs and expenses related to the preparation and submission of a proposal are the sole responsibility of the respondent.

All prospective respondents are prohibited from contacting any member of the District Board of Commissioners or any District employee concerning this solicitation except that prospective respondents may contact the District Administrator to obtain the RFP package as provided above and may contact the Fire Chief to submit questions as provided below. All questions must be directed to the Fire Chief, or his designee, via e-mail at jdavidson@psfrd.org using **"Question re: RFP #24-002 for 3 fire stations"** as the subject line. **Questions must be submitted on or before 5:00 p.m. on November 28 , 2023.**

The District reserves the right to withdraw and cancel this solicitation at any time, without liability to any respondent or prospective respondent. All responses are subject to Florida Public Records laws including Chapter 119, Florida Statutes. The District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, or marital status.

11/26/2023 0000318274-01

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